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ABSTRACT

This resource guide provides an introduction to the resources of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin for the beginner as well as the experienced researcher. Introductory material includes a map showing the location of the Historical Society and provides information about parking, library hours, telephone numbers, and mailing address. Detailed information including purpose, holdings, and use of materials is then provided for three components of the Historical Society: (1) the Library (Family Histories, Local Histories, U.S. Census, Wisconsin Territorial and State Censuses, Local Censuses, Wisconsin Vital Records, Passenger Lists, Military Records, City Directories, Newspapers, and How to Use the Collections); (2) the Wisconsin State Archives and Manuscript Collections (Census Records, Military Records, County and Local Government Records, Naturalization Records, Other Records, The Draper Manuscripts, Church and Cemetery Records, and The Genealogical Society of Utah Microfilming Program); and (3) the Map Collection. In addition, two applications of genealogical research are described: the solving of an 1855 kidnapping, and the location of a photograph of a black civil rights leader active in 1865. A bibliography of German place name sources available on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus and a listing of Area Research Centers are appended. Information about the contributors to the guide is also provided. (KM)

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GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

An Introduction to the Resources of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin

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GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

An Introduction to the Resources of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin

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Edited by
JAMES P. DANKY

MADISON: 1986

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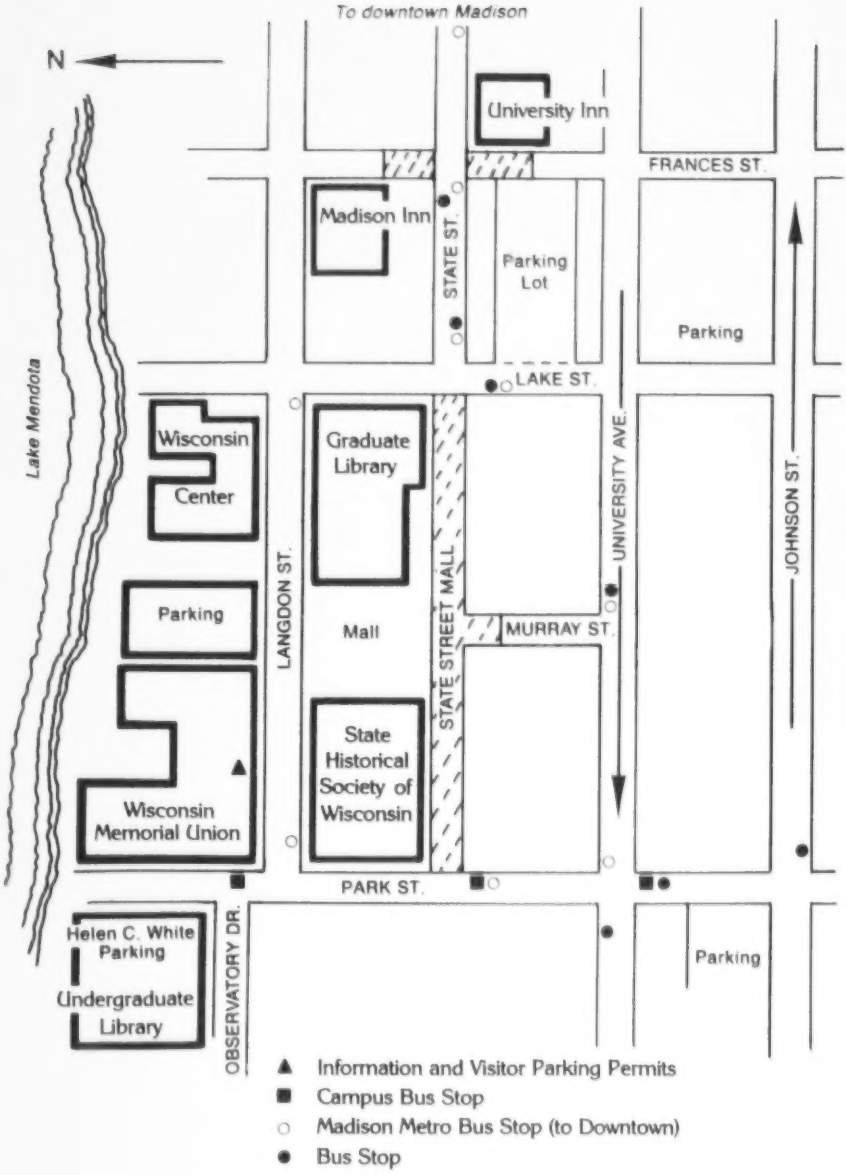
INTRODUCTION

THE ESSAYS in the first edition of this pamphlet (1979) were originally prepared for and delivered at "Genealogy for Librarians," an introductory workshop about the resources of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, on April 28, 1978. The workshop was made possible through funds provided by an LSCA Title I Grant received from the Division for Library Services, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

The text of this second edition has been completely revised, incorporating significant additions to the Society's collections and the experiences of the thousands of readers of the first edition. We believe that this pamphlet will be helpful and informative to the beginner as well as to the experienced researcher. Suggestions and corrections for future editions may be sent to the publisher at 816 State Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53706.

JAMES P. DANKY


To downtown Madison
N
University Inn
FRANCES ST.
Madison Inn
STATE ST.
Parking Lot
Parking
LAKE ST.
Lake Mendota
Wisconsin Center
Graduate Library
LANGDON ST.
STATE STREET MALL
UNIVERSITY AVE.
JOHNSON ST.
Parking
Mall
MURRAY ST.
State Historical Society of Wisconsin
Wisconsin Memorial Union
PARK ST.
Helen C. White Parking
Undergraduate Library
OBSERVATORY DR.
Parking
▲ Information and Visitor Parking Permits
■ Campus Bus Stop
○ Madison Metro Bus Stop (to Downtown)
● Bus Stop

BASIC INFORMATION

Parking

Located on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus at 816 State Street (at the corner of Park and Langdon Streets, eight blocks west of the State Capitol), the State Historical Society of Wisconsin is open to the public without charge. Automobile parking in the campus area is a perennial problem. All-day or five-hour parking spaces are usually filled by mid-morning. The Memorial Union lot on Langdon Street has eight-hour meters; the city-operated Lake Street Ramp has attendants; and the Helen C. White Hall garage on Park Street, across from the Union, has an attendant on duty. Street parking, when available, is limited to two-hour meters. A researcher may purchase a one-day or one-week visitor's parking permit from the University Parking Office by phoning ahead (608-263-6666). A campus bus runs about every ten minutes between outlying parking lots and the campus, and city buses run between the campus area and all sections of Madison.

Within a few minutes' walk from the Society are the Madison Inn and the University Inn and a variety of eating places ranging from snack bars to restaurants featuring foreign cuisines. Within about a mile, other hotels and motels may be reached by longer walks or by bus. Detailed suggestions for housing are available upon request of the Reference Archivist. If you are planning a visit from some distance, we strongly urge that you write or telephone ahead in order to avoid disappointment.

Hours: The Library is normally open 8 A.M. to 9 P.M., Monday through Thursday, and 8 A.M. to 5 P.M., Friday and Saturday. During University vacation periods, the hours are 8 A.M. to 5 P.M., Monday through Saturday. The Archives Reading Room, including the Map Collection,is normally open from 8 A.M. to 5 P.M., Monday through Friday, and from 8 A.M. to 4 P.M. on Saturday. Exceptions occur most frequently on Saturdays near major holidays and during the University's recess periods. Both the Archives and the Library are closed on Sunday. Detailed schedules are posted or will be mailed on request by the Reference Librarian or Reference Archivist.

Telephone Numbers:

Archives		*Library*	
Reference	(608) 262-3338	Reference	(608) 262-9590
Maps	(608) 262-5867	Circulation	(608) 262-3421
		Newspapers	(608) 262-9584

Mailing Address: 816 State Street Madison, WI 53706-1488

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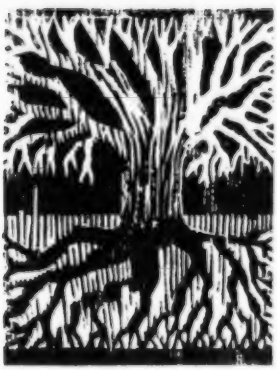

GENEALOGICAL
RESEARCH

THE LIBRARY

JAMES L. HANSEN

FAMILY HISTORIES, local histories, biographical collections, historical and genealogical periodicals, published local records, city directories, vital records, military rosters, passenger lists, indexes, censuses and newspapers, all of which are held in abundance by the Library of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, together with the archival and map collections described elsewhere in this volume, combine to make the State Historical Society of Wisconsin one of the nation's great genealogical research centers. The materials collected are not limited in geographic scope to Wisconsin. *The Library attempts, insofar as possible, to acquire all available published material relating to the history and genealogy of any part of the United States and Canada and has done so since 1849.*

The Library also functions as the North American history resource library for the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus. Consequently, it makes no attempt to collect non-North American historical or genealogical publications. Although other Madison campus libraries, most notably the University's Memorial Library, have substantial holdings of interest to the genealogist, particularly in European history, none of them specifically acquires foreign genealogical publications.

Family Histories

The Historical Society Library's collection of more than 20,000 published family histories is one of the largest in the United States. The collection covers a wide area both geographically and chronologically; but it is not for everyone. In order for the Library to acquire a family history, it first has to be compiled, and only a small percentage of U.S. families have had such a history printed. In general terms, the longer the family has been in this country the more likely it is to have a published history. Traditionally, New England families have had the most such histories printed, but more recently other areas have experienced a sharp increase in such publications. Also, families of English origin, especially if the immigrant ancestor came over in colonial times, are more likely to have a printed history than families of non-English origins.

The researcher must also remember that published histories vary greatly in the accuracy of the information they contain. Some are excellent; others are not worth their weight in family group sheets. All such publications should be considered as secondary sources; the researcher should double-check the sources from which the author gathered the

information, and be prepared, if necessary, to undertake additional original research. If you are fortunate enough to locate a published history of part of your family, however, it can save you considerable research and, at least, narrow your search.

Family histories can be located in the Library subject card catalog, alphabetically under the name of the family (e.g., Findlay Family). Remember, though, that just because the surname is the same there is no guarantee that it is directly connected to your family. Many surnames, especially the more common ones, have numerous unrelated branches.

Local Histories

To complement the Library's collection of family histories, its collection of local histories is also very large. State, regional, county, city, village, township, denominational, and individual church histories all can be of use to the genealogist. They are all likely to contain much biographical and genealogical information about the people living within their areas of coverage. Many of the most useful are the county histories published in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. These were often subscription histories or "mugbooks." (That is, before the book was published, an agent would canvass the area covered by the book soliciting subscriptions to the completed work. If you ordered a copy, your purchase price included the privilege of providing a biographical sketch of yourself for the history.) Many such histories contain hundreds of biographical sketches. Because of tendencies toward self-glorification, transcription and printing errors, etc., one must use these sketches with caution, but they frequently contain information that may not be available in print elsewhere. The strengths and weaknesses in chronological and geographical coverage closely parallel those of the family histories, with particular strengths in the northern and eastern states corresponding to weaknesses in the western and southern states.

Nearly all such biographical sketches appearing in Wisconsin county histories and biographical compendia are indexed by individual name in the Library's subject card catalog. In addition, the subject catalog contains listings of many Wisconsinites' obituaries. These obituary listings (the Wisconsin Necrology), while substantial, are by no means complete. They are a SELECTION, chosen over the years by Society staff, tending to emphasize prominent people, "old settlers," etc. If you do not find an obituary for the individual you are tracing in the subject card catalog, you should certainly search the appropriate local newspapers.

Accompanying the Library's local histories is its extensive collection of *published* records from across the United States and Canada. These

include, but are not limited to, birth, baptismal, marriage, death, burial, cemetery, probate, land, and tax records. The coverage of these records is somewhat scattered, as the existence of a particular record in the Library collections depends on the interest and ambition of the individual or organization which chose to publish it. Also, because the legal requirements for keeping records varied considerably over time and area (for example, marriage licenses were not required in Pennsylvania until the 1880's), many desirable records simply do not exist in any form. The strengths of the published records parallel those of family and local histories. However, there has been considerable publishing activity in recent years in many previously under-covered areas.

Many published records appear in genealogical periodicals, of which the Library has an extensive collection. These publications vary considerably. They include journals devoted to a particular surname or the publications of a particular genealogical society (most often state, regional, or local), and even a few with national coverage. Although some do include research articles, the principal purpose of most is to make more widely available the unpublished records within their scope. Such publications will be found under their titles in the Library's author-title catalog, and most local-interest periodicals will be found in the subject catalog under the name of the locality. For example, the *Wisconsin State Genealogical Society Newsletter* is found in the subject catalog under the heading "Wisconsin—Genealogy."

U.S. Censuses

The federal government has taken censuses every ten years since 1790. Because the records of the original enumerations have for the most part survived, they are of particular importance in genealogical research. The records of the censuses from 1790 through 1910 are available to researchers and will be the ones covered in the most detail here. The original manuscripts of the censuses of 1920 through 1970 are still closed and in custody of the Bureau of the Census. However, should you need a copy of your own record or that of a member of your immediate family, a copy can be obtained for a fee by applying to the Personal Census Service Branch, Bureau of the Census, 1600 North Walnut Street, Pittsburg, Kansas 66762-3097.

The 1790 census, which attempted to record all of the people living in the United States, listed only the head of the family by name, with the rest of the household enumerated by gender in a variety of age categories. Succeeding censuses of 1800, 1810, 1820, 1830, and 1840 continued this pattern, although the breakdown in the age categories became pro-

gressively more detailed. In 1850 a revolution in the census occurred; that enumeration was much more detailed and consequently of much more use to genealogists. The 1850 census asked for the name, age, sex, race, and place of birth (state of birth if born in the United States or country of birth if born outside the United States) of each individual, and requested the occupation of each individual fifteen years of age or over. The 1860 and 1870 censuses asked for essentially the same information, and the 1880 census went into even more detail by asking also for the marital status of each individual, the relationship to the head of the household, and the place of birth of the parents of each individual. The 1890 census was almost entirely destroyed by fire in 1921 and only a few, very widely scattered portions survived. The 1900 and 1910 censuses ask, in addition to the items previously mentioned, the number of years married, the number of children, and the year of immigration and naturalization status for immigrants. The 1900 census also asks for the month and year of birth in addition to the age.

The State Historical Society Library holds, on microfilm, the surviving original schedules of the Federal censuses of all the states from 1790 through 1910. It also holds, on microfilm, the censuses of Canada for 1851, 1861, 1871, and 1881.

Over the years there have been published many transcriptions and indexes to various portions of these census records. Usually the transcriptions or indexes cover either an entire state or portions thereof. There have been many indexes and transcriptions published for the censuses from 1790 through 1850, but progressively fewer for the censuses taken after 1850. The Historical Society Library attempts to acquire any such transcriptions or indexes published. Most of the major indexes are shelved together in the Library's reading room for easy consultation.

The 1880 and succeeding censuses are indexed by the Soundex system, done by the federal government in the 1930's. The 1880 Soundex covers only those households with children ten years of age or under, while the available indexes for 1900 and 1910 attempt to include all households. The Historical Society Library holds 1880 Soundex indexes for Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, New York, and California. For 1900 only the Soundex for Wisconsin is held. The 1910 census has Soundex indexes for twenty-one states (Wisconsin not included) but the Library does not currently hold any of them. The Library does have long-term plans to acquire these indexes, but they are extremely voluminous and costly and it is likely to be some years before the collection approaches completeness.

The Historical Society Library holds original manuscripts of the 1850, 1860, and 1870 censuses for the State of Wisconsin as well as microfilm copies of these records. The 1820-1870 U.S. censuses for Wisconsin were indexed as a W.P.A. project in the 1930's. The index, which lists each individual within the state in a given census year, is available on microfilm both at the Historical Society Library and on interlibrary loan through local libraries across the country.

In addition to the U.S. censuses, there have been a variety of other scattered censuses taken by various colonies, states, territories, and other jurisdictions from colonial times to the present. Such records of these as have been published have normally been acquired as part of the Historical Society's collections.

Wisconsin Territorial and State Censuses 1836–1905

In addition to its extensive holdings of the U.S. censuses, the Society is the primary repository of the censuses taken by the Territory and State of Wisconsin. The surviving original schedules, except for some newly-discovered fragments of the 1865 schedules (q.v.) are held by the Archives Division. Microfilm copies are available in the Microforms Reading Room and for interlibrary loan and sale. Because information on these censuses is often difficult to locate, the descriptions given below are more detailed than those for the U.S. censuses. For each census taken, the description identifies the date of enumeration, the listings requested, and any necessary special details about that census. The schedules are presumed to be complete unless otherwise noted.

1836—Taken late summer 1836.

Listings include name of head of household; number of males under 21; number of males over 21; number of females under 21; number of females over 21.

Note: This census included the area later set off as Iowa Territory in 1838. The portion covering what became Wisconsin was published as "The Territorial Census for 1836" in the *Wisconsin Historical Collections*, Vol. 13 (1895), pp. 247–270. The listings for each county were rearranged into alphabetical order and all the names were included in the index at the end of the volume. The portion covering present-day Iowa was published as *The First Census of the Original Counties of Dubuque and Demoine Taken in July, 1836*, edited by Benjamin F. Shambaugh (Des Moines, Historical Department of Iowa, 1897). An index was published for Dubuque County in *Hawkeye Heritage*, Vol. 1, no. 3 (Summer

1966) pp. 60–68, and for Des Moines County in Vol. 1, no. 4 (Fall, 1966) pp. 90–100.

1838—Taken Spring 1838.

Listings include name of master, mistress, steward, overseer or other principal person; name of head of family; number of white males; number of white females; number of free males of color; number of free females of color. *Note:* Only portions of the 1838 schedules are extant. The law directing the taking of the census was not clear about the disposition of the original schedules and some counties forwarded only the statistical totals to the Secretary of the Territory. In those counties the schedules were presumably filed with the Clerk of Courts and should at least in theory be there yet. Although references have been found to some of them, none of these schedules have come to light. The following list gives the status of the holdings for each county. Those in present-day Iowa are identified by the symbol (I).

Brown County	Complete schedule
Calumet County	Complete schedule as part of Brown County
Cedar County (I)	Complete schedule
Clayton County (I)	Complete schedule
Clinton County (I)	Aggregate only
Crawford County	Complete schedule
Dane County	Grand total only, by sheriff of Iowa County
Delaware County (I)	Aggregate only, by sheriff of Dubuque County
Des Moines County (I)	Grand total only
Dodge County	Complete schedule, by sheriff of Milwaukee County
Dubuque County (I)	Aggregate only
Fayette County (I)	Complete schedule, as part of Clayton County
Fond du Lac County	Complete schedule, as part of Brown County
Grant County	Grand total only
Green County	Complete schedule
Henry County (I)	Aggregate only
Iowa County	Grand total only
Jackson County (I)	Aggregate only
Jefferson County	Complete schedule, by sheriff of Milwaukee County

Johnson County (I)	Complete schedule
Jones County (I)	Aggregate only, by sheriff of Jackson County
Keokuk County (I)	By sheriff of Johnson County who reported no one living in the county
Lee County (I)	Complete schedule
Linn County (I)	Aggregate only, by sheriff of Jackson County
Louisa County (I)	Complete schedule
Manitowoc County	Complete schedule, as part of Brown County
Marquette County	Complete schedule, as part of Brown County
Milwaukee County	Complete schedule
Muscatine County (I)	Complete schedule
Portage County	Complete schedule, as part of Brown County
Racine County	Aggregate only
Rock County	Aggregate only, by sheriff of Racine County
Scott County (I)	Aggregate only
Sheboygan County	Complete schedule, as part of Brown County
Slaughter County (I)	Complete schedule
Van Buren County (I)	Aggregate only (original schedule for Dist. 3 (of four) at Iowa Department of History
Walworth County	Aggregate only, by sheriff of Racine County
Washington County	Complete schedule, by sheriff of Milwaukee County

1842—Taken June 1842.

Information requested same as 1838.

1846—Taken as of June 1, 1846.

Listings include name of head of family; number of white males; number of white females; number of colored males; number of colored females. *Note*: Schedules lacking for Crawford County, Fond du Lac County, Grand Rapids in Portage County, and Sheboygan County. No returns from Chippewa, LaPointe, and Richland counties.

1847—Taken as of December 1, 1847.

Listings requested same as 1846. *Note:* Schedules lacking for Rock County, Sheboygan County, Washington County, and Waukesha County. No returns from Chippewa County.

1855—Taken as of June 1, 1855.

Listings include name of head of family; number of white males; number of white females; number of colored males; number of colored females; number of deaf and dumb, blind or insane; number on individuals in each household of foreign birth. Kewaunee County was apparently not enumerated because of a jurisdictional dispute between Brown and Manitowoc counties. An index to this census is being prepared by the Northwoods Genealogical Society, Rhinelander, Wisconsin.

1865—Taken as of June 1, 1865.

Listings requested same as 1855. The schedules of this census were apparently destroyed at an unknown date and location prior to 1942, and possibly in the Wisconsin State Capitol Fire of 1904. However, like many of the nineteenth-century territorial and state censuses in Wisconsin, two copies were apparently made, one of which was filed with the Secretary of State, the other remaining with the county. Because the bulk of the state copies for the other state censuses have survived, little attention had been paid in the past to the county copies of the 1865 State Census, which have turned up for several counties.

Dunn County. Originals at the Area Research Center, U.W.–Stout, Menomonie, Wisconsin. Microfilmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah. Schedules lacking for Town of Menomonie.

Green County. Originals at the Area Research Center, U.W.–Platteville. Microfilmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah.

Jackson County. Originals at the Area Research Center, U.W.–La Crosse. Microfilmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah.

Kewaunee County. Originals held by the Clerk of Courts, Kewaunee County Courthouse, Kewaunee, Wisconsin. Microfilmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah.

Ozaukee County. Originals held by the County Clerk, Ozaukee County Courthouse, Port Washington, Wisconsin. Microfilmed by the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

Sheboygan County. Originals held by the Register of Deeds, Sheboygan County Courthouse, Sheboygan, Wisconsin. Microfilmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah.

1875—Taken as of June 1, 1875.

Listings include name of head of family; number of white males; number of white females; number of colored males; number of colored females; number of deaf and dumb, blind or insane.

1885—Taken as of June 20, 1885.

Listings include name of head of family; number of white males; number of white females; number of colored males; number of colored females; number born in each of the following countries: United States, Great Britain, Ireland, France, British America, Scandinavia, Holland, all other countries. This census also included a special enumeration of "Soldiers and Sailors of the Late War." For each veteran it included his name, rank, company and regiment, state from which he served, and his post office address in 1885. The original schedules are extant and microfilmed, but the entire list was alphabetized and published as an appendix to the statistical report.

1895—Taken as of June 1, 1895.

Listings requested same as 1885, including veterans' schedules.

1905—Taken as of June 1, 1905.

Listings include name of each individual; relationship to the head of the household; color or race; sex; age at last birthday; marital status; place of birth (state or country); place of birth of parents (state or country); occupation for all age 14 or over; number of months employed; whether home or farm is owned (mortaged or clear) or rented. This census also included a special enumeration of "Soldiers and Sailors of the Late War." The original schedules are extant although they have not been microfilmed, but the entire list was alphabetized and published as an appendix to the statistical report.

Local Censuses

Certainly the least-known censuses for genealogists or other researchers are those taken in Wisconsin between 1848 and 1959 as one of the steps towards incorporating villages and cities.

Under Wisconsin law, incorporation was ordered by circuit court judges after petitioners supplied them with a survey of the area embraced by the proposed village and an every-name census of the persons within those boundaries, arranged by lot and block. Then a referendum was held, and the municipality was created. Charters were granted only for cities after 1851.

Copies of these censuses were often retained in circuit court case files. A copy also had to be supplied the county register of deeds, and the village clerk was obligated to record another copy in the village records. Cities could follow the same procedures.

The circuit court case files of Dane County at the State Historical Society have been found to include the required censuses for Mazomanie (both 1884 and 1885), Deerfield (1891), Cambridge (1891), Belleville (1892), Waunakee (1893), Mt. Horeb (1899), Dane (1899), Wingra Park (now part of Madison, 1902), DeForest (1903), Fair Oaks (now part of Madison, 1905), Marshall (1905), Middleton (1905), Blue Mounds (1912), McFarland (1920), and Cross Plains (1920). In addition to place of residence, some censuses mention ethnicity.

Censuses for incorporations prior to 1884 have not been found in the Dane County circuit court files, which are Dane Series 109 of the State Archives. Further research in other circuit court files which may appear in the state archives has not been conducted, the preliminary exploration for municipal censuses having been confined to Dane County examples only.

Since many Wisconsin communities were incorporated between 1880 and 1900, years for which the lost 1890 census has proved a handicap, municipal censuses have potential wide use. It is likely that other states besides Wisconsin required them as well, but no study of this likelihood has been made.

Wisconsin Vital Records

The Society, with the financial assistance of the Wisconsin State Genealogical Society, has recently acquired from the Wisconsin Division of Health microfilm of the vital records filed there from the earliest dates of recording through September, 1907. The records were filmed as part of the microfilming program in Wisconsin of the Genealogical Society of Utah.

Wisconsin passed its first law directing the recording of births and deaths in 1852 but, like most such early laws, it was almost entirely ignored. Passage of a similar law in 1878 had somewhat more effect, and most counties then began keeping at least some records of births and deaths. The percentage of events registered gradually increased, but it was well after the establishment of the State Bureau of Vital Statistics in 1907 that registration approached completeness. Marriage records, however, were kept almost from earliest times. In the oldest counties of the state they date back as far as the 1820's and most counties began maintaining them almost immediately after organization. By the 1860's and

1870's marriage records typically included parents' names as well as other useful genealogical information.

Statewide records of births, marriages and deaths are held by the Bureau of Health Statistics, P.O. Box 309, Madison, Wisconsin 53701-0309. The records for each county will also be found in custody of the register of deeds at the appropriate county courthouse. The records should be duplicated at both the county and state levels, but cases do sometimes occur where the record of an event will only be found at one level. The microfilmed records held by the State Historical Society were obtained from the Bureau of Health Statistics and should not be considered a complete substitute for appropriate courthouse research.

In addition to the records themselves, the State Historical Society has obtained comprehensive indexes to the recorded births and deaths prior to October, 1907, and a partial bride and groom index to the marriages which covers the counties alphabetically from Adams to Racine. There are individual groom-only indexes for the remainder of the counties. In addition to the complete set of records held at the State Historical Society in Madison, each of the Area Research Centers holds a complete set of the indexes and the records for the counties covered by that center.

Records after September, 1907, must be obtained from the Bureau of Health Statistics or the register of deeds at the appropriate county courthouse. At either location there is currently a $5 charge for copies of marriage or death records and $7 for birth records. The fee is charged for *each* record requested and is assessed whether or not a record is found. The State Historical Society does not have, nor are there plans to acquire in the immediate future, any Wisconsin vital records after 1907. Also, because of its limited staff, and the increased availability of these records from other sources, the Library staff cannot undertake searches or copy requests for these vital records. *They must be used in person at the Society.*

Passenger Lists

The Library has acquired on microfilm the available passenger lists for the major east coast and gulf ports for most of the nineteenth century. These include passenger arrivals for the ports of Baltimore, 1820–1897; Boston, 1820–1891; New Orleans, 1820–1900; New York, 1820–1897; Philadelphia, 1800–1906; and the port of Quebec in Canada, 1865–1900. The Library has also acquired the available indexes for these lists which include all of the above-mentioned lists except for the port of New York from 1847–1896 and the port of Quebec. These arrivals in these two ports have not been indexed so that they must be searched list by list.

The New York lists are particularly voluminous, so that without at least a month and year of arrival a search for a particular passenger would be an almost impossible undertaking.

There was almost no regular keeping of passenger lists prior to 1820 and only scattered lists have survived from the 1600's and 1700's. The best approach to these early lists is the *Passenger and Immigration Lists Bibliography* by P. W. Filby (Detroit, 1981) and its *First Supplement* (1984). Because the scattered early lists have for the most part been published, the Filby bibliography provides an excellent approach to such records as have survived. The Library has most of the items cited.

Military Records

The Library also holds a large number of published rosters of military units for the various wars, lists of veterans' burials, particularly for the Revolutionary War, Revolutionary War pension indexes, and a wide variety of other materials relating to military service, particularly for the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Some of these publications are well indexed; others have no indexing at all and must be searched page by page. It should be noted that these records are almost entirely service records and that pensions for service, particularly in the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Indian wars, and Civil War should be obtained from the National Archives. Fuller details on the Wisconsin records available will be found in the chapter on the Archives.

City Directories

The Library also holds an extensive collection of city directories which can be of considerable use in genealogical research in larger cities. The Library holds, either in the original or on microfilm, all the available directories for all U.S. cities up to 1860. Complete files for the fifty largest cities, and many other directories in addition are held for the period 1861–1901. For the twentieth century the collection becomes much more scattered, although there are still significant files available. In addition, the Library holds an extensive collection of Wisconsin telephone directories from the mid-1960's to the present.

Newspapers

The State Historical Society of Wisconsin has the second largest collection of newspapers in the United States, surpassed only by that of the Library of Congress. It is a national collection, spanning the period from the seventeenth century to the present, that has been developed to serve the needs of researchers not only in Wisconsin, but throughout the na-

tion and the world. By agreement with the University of Wisconsin, the Society has since 1901 limited its newspaper collecting to materials dealing with the area north of the Rio Grande. The holdings include titles published in each of the fifty states, U.S. possessions, and the thirteen Canadian provinces, plus an assortment of military newspapers published overseas. More than 4,000 titles are included in the collection, with Wisconsin imprints accounting for approximately 1,600 of these.

In addition to newspapers currently received and awaiting conversion to microfilm either by the Society's own laboratory or by the acquisition of commercially produced microfilm, the newspaper collection consists of 15,000 bound volumes, 75,000 reels of positive microfilm, and 12,000 sheets of microprint.

The newspaper collection has a number of areas of particular strength. One is Wisconsin newspapers, numbering over 1,600 titles. It has long been regarded as a model for other states and was most recently described in Donald E. Oehlerts' *Guide to Wisconsin Newspapers, 1833–1957* (Madison, 1958). Oehlerts' volume is still the best guide to the newspaper holdings on Wisconsin in the Society, and any title listed in the book as being in the Library (those coded "WHi") is already on microfilm and available on interlibrary loan. Since 1943 the Society has maintained subscriptions to all Wisconsin newspapers as well as to over fifty other newspapers throughout the United States and Canada. Prior to 1943 the Society was more selective in its acquisition of Wisconsin titles. Many of the titles or issues listed in Oehlerts as being held by other libraries have been borrowed by the Society and microfilmed. *In short, the Society's Library should be the first place to look for a Wisconsin newspaper after a researcher has checked with his or her own local library.*

In addition to possessing the largest collection of colonial and early American newspapers west of the Appalachians, the Society has the largest collection of labor papers in the nation. Other areas of the newspaper collection which have attained national importance are those of radical/reform, abolitionist, nineteenth-century religious, black, ethnic, Native American, and women's newspapers.

In the late 1840's, soon after the Society's founding and even before it had a library collection of any size, the Society began to acquire newspapers from across Wisconsin. (As some of the founders of the Society were newspaper publishers, this is not surprising.) By 1856, the Society regularly received fifty-two publications—more than any comparable historical agency in the U.S. With the hiring of Lyman Copeland Draper as its corresponding secretary in 1853, the Society began an aggressive

program of newspaper collecting that went far beyond the borders of the state. In his first year as secretary, Draper purchased a set of *Niles' Weekly Register* at auction in New York and received files of eighteenth-century Cooperstown, New York, and Philadelphia newspapers, thus establishing a policy of collecting early Americana. The collection increased rapidly during the nineteenth century under Draper and his successor, Reuben Gold Thwaites, and was named as the sixth largest collection of pre-1820 papers by Clarence Brigham in his *History and Bibliography of American Newspapers, 1690–1820* (Worcester, 1947). As interest in the American West grew, the Society began to acquire a substantial collection of newspapers from all of the states and territories of that area, including Alaska and Hawaii. This portion of the collection reached a peak during World War I when an additional thirty-six Western dailies were added so that future historians could study the impact of the war on the "isolationist belt" from the Appalachians to the Rockies and beyond.

To help local users, as well as those from around the state and nation, the Society has issued many bibliographic aids to its newspaper collection. Specialized bibliographies published by the Society describing portions of the newspaper collections include *Labor Papers on Microfilm: A Combined List* (Madison, 1965); *Black Newspapers and Periodicals*, second edition (Madison, 1979); *Native American Periodicals and Newspapers, 1828–1982: Bibliography, Publishing Record, and Holdings* (Westport, 1984), *Women's Periodicals and Newspapers from the 18th Century to 1981* (Boston, 1982); *Wisconsin Newspapers, 1833–1850* (Madison, 1979); and *Undergrounds: A Union List of Alternative Periodicals* (Madison, 1974). The Library has responded enthusiastically to co-operative bibliographic projects in addition to Brigham's *History and Bibliography of American Newspapers...*, including Winifred Gregory's *American Newspapers, 1821–1936* (New York, 1937); Karl Arndt and May Olson's *The German Language Press of the Americas* (Munich, 1976); and Bernard Naas and Carmelita Sakr's *American Labor Union Periodicals* (Ithaca, 1956). From 1948 to 1983, the Society has submitted information on its holdings to the Library of Congress-sponsored *Newspapers in Microform* both to publicize its collection and to prevent duplicate microfilming.

The Society has also continued to participate in co-operative newspaper microfilming and reprinting programs such as the American Antiquarian Society and Readex-sponsored Early American Newspapers and Greenwood Press's Radical Periodicals in the United States.

Since 1982 the Society has participated in the U.S. Newspapers Program, a joint effort of the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Library of Congress, and OCLC, Inc. For the first time the Society's holdings, as well as those of all other libraries in the country eventually, will be available in an online data base. This data base contains some 35,000 titles as of 1985 and a printed version, *United States Newspaper Program National Union List* (Dublin, Ohio, 1985), is available. The *Union List* offers subject, place of publication, and chronological indexes. This important source is a fundamental check for genealogists who need newspapers.

Today all the Wisconsin newspapers in the Society are on microfilm, but the search continues to identify and borrow for filming titles or parts of files not held. Some of the Library's non-Wisconsin newspapers are on microfilm but many are only available in the original. If anyone knows of a missing Wisconsin newspaper he or she should inform the Newspapers and Periodicals Librarian at the Society so these valuable resources can be preserved centrally and made more readily available.

As Clarence S. Brigham noted in the introduction to his history, "If all the printed sources of history for a certain century or decade had to be destroyed save one, that which could be chosen with the greatest value to posterity would be a file of an important newspaper." Genealogists would probably agree with these sentiments, a conclusion reinforced by their extensive use of the society's newspaper collection in genealogical research.

How To Use The Collections

Because of the extent and variety of the Library's collections, a personal visit is strongly recommended as the most effective way to use them. It is important, however, for the researcher to be well prepared before making a personal visit. Definition of your research problem will allow you to make more efficient use of your time at the Society.

Most of the strictly genealogical materials in the Library collections do not circulate. The principal exceptions are microfilmed newspapers, the 1820–1900 U.S. censuses for Wisconsin, their indexes for 1820–1870, and some microfilmed Wisconsin county histories. Family histories and published local records do not circulate under any circumstances. Some county and local histories may circulate depending on condition, rarity, and demand. Much of the general library collection (books) does circulate, the major exceptions being pamphlets, unmicrofilmed newspapers, unbound periodicals, and rare books. The Li-

brary maintains two self-service Xerox machines (currently 5¢ per exposure) and has facilities for photocopying from microfilm.

Any circulating materials in the Library collection are also available for interlibrary loan. To borrow materials on interlibrary loan, the researcher should go to his or her local library and ask to have the material borrowed. The library will then contact the Society and the material will be sent to the co-operating library for use there. A charge of $5 is levied for each request from an out-of-state library.

Because of the Society's limited staff, only the most basic assistance can be provided in response to mail requests. The appropriate indexes will be searched for information about a specific individual or family, if the patron provides sufficient identifying information in the letter of inquiry. *Searches for information about all the individuals of a given surname cannot be undertaken.* The searching that can be done for a mail request is performed without charge unless it involves making photocopies. Please do not send payment, even with photocopy orders; the Society's Fiscal Services Section will bill for any photocopies made. The basic rates are 10¢ per page plus a $1 service charge for requests from Wisconsin residents and 10¢ per page plus a $5 service charge for out-of-state requests. Specific price quotes will be provided upon request.

If more extensive searching than can be provided is indicated, we will furnish, upon request, a list of certified genealogical researchers who may be able to undertake the necessary research. The inquirer is expected to contact the researcher directly concerning research fees and conditions.

Genealogical research in any institution can be very time-consuming and frustrating. It may help to consider that somewhere in the world there exists the particular bit of information you are seeking. All you have to do is find where it is. We will try, as best as we can, to assist in that search.

THE WISCONSIN STATE ARCHIVES and MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

JOANNE E. HOHLER and TIMOTHY L. ERICSON

IN THE PAST the term "archives" tended to connote a sanctum sanctorum, the lair of professional scholars, ill-lit and crammed with bales of musty documents. The picture did not flatter, and it tended to intimidate all but the boldest researcher. Happily, times have changed. The State Historical Society of Wisconsin is a public institution. As custodian of the Wisconsin State Archives and a rich collection of manuscripts such as letters, diaries, and church records, the Archives is, and always has been, open to any and all students of the past. Today more than one-third of the persons who use the Society's archives and manuscripts collection are genealogists—a statistic which archivists have taken to heart.

The truth is, it is easier to use a library than an archives. We are taught in our school days how to use libraries, which have a relatively small number of reference tools and a more-or-less standardized "product": the printed page, packaged as a book or periodical, and classifiable by author, title, and subject. An archives, by contrast, contains a wide variety of types of documents, both printed and in manuscript; its finding aids are more complicated than a library's card catalog; its holdings are usually incomplete, often fragmentary within a given group of records; and relevant bodies of material are easily overlooked, even by experienced researchers. It is the purpose of this brief essay to explain what the Archives is, how it works, and how it can be used profitably by genealogists.

The generic term "archives" refers to public records as well as the papers of private individuals, businesses, and organizations. (Unfortunately archival terminology is subject to change and variation, but we refer to our public records as archives and our private papers as manuscripts.) The Society has been the official archival depository for the State of Wisconsin since 1947. We hold more than 26,000 cubic feet of state, county, and local public records dating from 1799 to the present, and a similar quantity of manuscript collections.

The Archives is located on the fourth floor of the State Historical Society. Researchers who use collections of paper documents, such as letters and diaries or maps, will work with the Reference Section. As you exit the elevator on the fourth floor, the Archives and Manuscripts Reading Room is a short distance down the hallway, to the left. Individuals

who need to use sound recordings or photographs will work with the Sound and Visual Archives. The Sound and Visual Reading Room is immediately to your right as you exit the elevator on the fourth floor.

Except for nontextual material (photographs and sound recordings), all archives and manuscripts research, including genealogical research, is done in one of three ways.

The first, and the most popular, is to visit the Society's fourth-floor reading room where most of the genealogical collections are found. Researchers who do this have the advantage of being able to look through a large number of collections in a short period of time, and they receive assistance from a professionally trained staff.

On their first visit to the archives, researchers are interviewed so that the reference archivist and assistants may better help identify and locate useful materials. All staff archivists are available to talk with researchers who are having difficulty finding information or using particular collections.

The second means is to use materials at one of the thirteen Area Research Centers (ARCs) located throughout the state (see Appendix C). Each ARC maintains a regional manuscript collection, and archives and manuscripts from Madison or from another ARC may be temporarily transferred to a Center more conveniently situated for the researcher. This service is especially helpful to genealogists who are unable to travel to Madison or other parts of the state.

By becoming familiar with a regional ARC, many genealogists who originally requested loans have been pleasantly surprised to find additional records, about which they had no previous knowledge, but which were part of the Center's permanent holdings. Generally, the ARCs maintain a good collection of county records such as school records, court dockets, naturalization records, birth, marriage and death records, tax rolls, and other land records. In addition, each Center maintains a collection of regional manuscripts such as business, church, and organizational records, and letters and diaries. Usually the ARCs also maintain supporting collections which contain published genealogies, special indexes, regional newspapers, local history reference books, oral histories, and maps.

Genealogists wishing to use the ARC network should plan their trip in advance. Hours of operation vary greatly on the different campuses and since the transfer of all original manuscripts must be completed by courier, it may take some time to receive requested material. There are also limits on the number of collections which may be transferred at one time.

The third means is to request assistance by mail. Unfortunately, the number of staff hours available severely limits the free service the Society can offer to people who request information in this way. Staff are not able to search unindexed records, or to search or make photocopies for researchers of records which are available on microfilm. However, even though there are limitations upon the direct research service the Society can provide, the staff will make every effort to make the appropriate records available so that individuals may conduct their own family research and thus enjoy their genealogical investigations more fully.

Staff will arrange for an outside research aide to search and copy unindexed records and papers which have not been microfilmed. Currently the charge for this service is $6 per hour, plus the cost of any copies made, and postage. Since staff cannot accurately estimate the cost of a research project in advance, patrons using this service must complete a Search and Copying Request Form on which they specify the maximum amount they are willing to spend. Where more expert service is needed, the Society also can provide patrons with a list of certified records searchers willing to do genealogical research in our holdings. The patron can then make individual arrangements with the searcher. The Society does not arrange this service beyond sending out the current list of certified genealogical researchers.

The Society archives has many different types of public records and manuscripts that are useful for genealogical research. The following is a general description of the major categories of these collections.

Census Records

As noted in more detail in the chapter on the Library, the Society has a large collection of census records, both from Wisconsin and from other states. Included are federal population schedules for the entire nation for the years 1790–1910; mortality, agricultural, and manufacturing schedules for Wisconsin for the years 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880; territorial censuses for 1836, 1838, 1842, 1846, and 1847; and state census schedules for 1855, 1865 (scattered returns only), 1875, 1885, 1895, and 1905. Microfilm copies of these records, except for agricultural and manufacturing schedules for 1880, are available at the Library. The Archives maintains original copies of most territorial and state censuses, and a few federal census records which are available for use in the Archives and Manuscripts Reading Room.

Military Records

Military records are another tremendously valuable and reliable source for the genealogist. They contain an amazing amount of information, and are generally easier to use than unindexed census records or passenger lists. The Wisconsin State Archives holds 173 record series pertaining to the Civil War alone in the records of the governor, the secretary of state, the state treasurer and adjutant general, the quartermaster general, and records of various regiments. There is a list of persons liable for military service; there are county draft books, regimental muster and descriptive rolls, field rosters, an index to Wisconsin volunteers, hospital reports, rosters of state militia, certificates of service, pension claims (actual pension records must usually be obtained from the National Archives), duty rosters, records of the volunteer regiments, applications for commissions, records of the disposition of personal effects, state census enumerations of Civil War veterans in 1885, 1895, and 1905; and a list of soldiers who died at Camp Randall and were buried in Madison. These are not complete records which include *every* soldier and *every* pension claim, *every* regiment or *every* duty roster; and most records are not indexed.

Most useful of the Civil War military records are the regimental rosters and descriptive rolls which have been microfilmed and are available through the Library. These are arranged by regiment, then by company, with officers listed first and enlisted men grouped in alphabetical order. There are two sets of these rosters. The first, *muster rolls* ("Red Books") were compiled at the time of the Civil War and included the place of birth for each man. The second set, the *descriptive rolls* ("Blue Books") were compiled by the state adjutant general's office about 1885. The descriptive rolls are easier to use, but unlike the muster rolls, do not give the veteran's birthplace. Both sets generally give the same information: name, rank, when and where enlisted, by whom, for how long, when mustered into U.S. service and where, some physical description, occupation, place of residence, date of termination of service, and occasional remarks about illnesses, transfers, or death where applicable. A published index, *Wisconsin Volunteers, War of the Rebellion 1861–1875* (Madison, 1914) is available to help determine a soldier's unit if it is not otherwise known.

Civil War service information from muster and descriptive rolls is available in the form of a Certificate of Service. Generally the records from which these certificates are prepared show the following information: occupation, rank, when and where enlisted, by whom enlisted, for how long, when and where mustered into service, date of termination of

service, and other notations. Family information is not given in the records. They do not list names of relatives and do not give date and place of death unless it occurred during actual Civil War service. For foreign-born soldiers these records generally show only the country of birth, although for U.S.-born soldiers the county of birth is frequently given. Along with the certificate we will also send a brief history of the regiment in which the soldier served. Charges for certificates are as follows: $3 for each first copy certificate furnished for any individual soldier; $1 for an additional copy of the same certificate *requested at the same time as the first copy*. All fees must be paid in advance, by check or money order payable to the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

Records of National Guardsmen who served in the Spanish-American War are not in the State Archives, nor are there records of those who served in World Wars I and II, or the Korean or Vietnam wars. These records are located at the Department of Veterans Affairs (see Appendix E). Researchers should remember that all records for World War II, Korea, and Vietnam veterans are confidential. Veterans wanting information from this time period may obtain it through their county Veteran Services Officer, or by visiting the Department of Veterans Affairs in Madison.

Additional military records available from offices other than the State Archives include an index of grave registrations for veterans buried in Wisconsin through 1970 (Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs. NOTE: county registrations are also available from local Veterans Services Officers); military and pension records from the Revolutionary War to before World War I (National Archives); and personnel records for soldiers in U.S. military units during World Wars I and II (National Personnel Records Center. NOTE: some files may also be available through the State Veterans Affairs Office. For addresses of these offices, see Appendix E).

The Wisconsin State Archives generally has records of the men in the military service of the state, but not of those who have been called to duty in military units of the federal government. The Archives also lacks records from the Winnebago, Black Hawk, and the Mexican wars, although a list of soldiers obtained from the National Archives is being prepared for publication by James L. Hansen. Those records relating to World Wars I and II which are available from the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs generally duplicate similar records in the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis. World War I records consist mainly of bonus and service cards; World War II records are composed primarily of copies of separation and medical records.

County and Local Government Records

The list of county and local government records of use to the genealogist is long, and it varies in quantity and quality from county to county. *County and local records held by the Society are not all housed in Madison; most are held at one of the thirteen ARCs.* (See Appendix C.) These records may be recalled to Madison or sent to another Center for a limited time (usually four to six weeks) at the request of a researcher. Probate case files, poll lists, tax records, school records, naturalization papers, declarations of intention, and land records are typically among the collection of county records.

However, the records that should have been created in a given county were not always created, and if created, they were not always preserved. Because of this, the extent of collections for different counties varies greatly. Fires, floods, and short-sighted records preservation practices have dimished the supply of historical materials that are available for use today. Researchers should contact either the appropriate ARC or the Reference Archivist for an accurate list of available records for any specific county.

Naturalization Records

Prior to 1906 the naturalization process was administered by the circuit and superior court system in Wisconsin. After June, 1906, naturalization papers became federal property and a federal commissioner became responsible for the naturalization process, although circuit courts continued to be involved until the 1930s. As with other county and local records acquired by the Society, naturalization papers have been distributed to regional ARCs. Since the extent of this collection also varies from county to county, researchers should contact the appropriate ARC or the State Historical Society before planning a trip to use naturalization records.

Other Records

Another extremely useful, but little known, resource is the Annual Enumeration of Farm Statistics which exists for all Wisconsin counties beginning in either 1923 or 1924. Each enumeration lists the name of the owner or occupant of *every* farm in that township, city, or village, the post office address of the owner/occupant, and detailed information concerning the size of the farm, crops raised, and farm equipment. From 1923 to 1960 the enumeration reports are arranged alphabetically by county, and within each county by year, and thereafter alphabetically by the township, city, or village name. Beginning in 1961 the reports are

organized by year and therein alphabetically by county, township, city, and village. The Annual Enumeration records have been microfilmed and are available at the Archives Reading Room.

The archival resources mentioned here certainly do not exhaust the possibilities. Census, military, and naturalization records are only the beginning. License applications for various professionals, as for example physicians, midwives, clergymen, pharmacists, architects and professional engineers, barbers, and others; Immigration Division records with background information about colonization companies; prison records, including pardon, extradition papers, and warrants; records of the Historical Records Survey; a register of physicians practicing between 1845 and 1900; and on and on—any may contain that elusive piece of the puzzle. Searching public records for genealogical clues is not a game for the faint-hearted. It is only the determined and imperturbable researcher who can fight the odds.

For private records, that is, manuscripts, it is more difficult to say what the Archives does *not* have. Much of what we do have is of no use for specific genealogical research. But one can take the view that every person is of potential interest for some genealogical study some day, and letters or other records have been preserved may then be useful too. The general collections, including the papers of genealogists, letters written by Civil War soldiers, the records of a wide variety of clubs and organizations, and the biographies of prominent Wisconsin people done as a WPA Writers Project during the Great Depression—all are rich genealogical resources. Noteworthy too are the Daughters of the American Revolution-Wisconsin Genealogical Records Committee collections. This is a series of fifty-two volumes of copied information on many Wisconsin families, drawn from family Bibles, tombstone inscriptions, church records, family histories, pioneer letters, wills, deeds, and other legal records. The Archives Reading Room has a shelf list compiled from the tables of contents of the fifty-two volumes. Most of the volumes have an index at the end, and much of this material can be approached through the card catalog for manuscript collections. This is a heavily used collection.

As a Bicentennial project, the Wisconsin State Genealogical Society issued "century certificates" to applicants who could prove that their families had settled at least 100 years previously in the Wisconsin counties of Dane, Rock, Green, Jefferson or Columbia—and "pioneer certificates" if they had settled by 1850. More than 7,200 certificates were issued by the end of 1976. The applications for these certificates are an important genealogical resource and are available in the Archives Read-

ing Room. An index to the applications has been published under the title *Some Pioneer Families of Wisconsin—An Index* (Madison, 1977).

A related collection, "Wisconsin Pioneers and Century Farms" consists of material compiled by the Wisconsin Centennial Committee on Century Families. It is arranged by counties and includes genealogical pedigree charts and other forms, century farm records, articles, correspondence, cemetery records, an index to Wisconsin's first settlers whose descendants were living in the state in 1948, and records of the Centennial Farm Certificate Program conducted by the State Department of Agriculture from 1952 to 1957.

The manuscript collections also include a large number of unpublished genealogies and family histories. Collections of this sort (i.e., those which contain information on a family's history or genealogy) are cataloged both in the Society Library's main card catalog and in the Manuscripts Reading Room. In this way, genealogists have access to information in either place. Collections so catalogued may include genealogical charts, letters, reminiscences, journals of voyages or cross-country travels, diaries, biographical material, baptismal and marriage records, family histories, wills, deeds, and certificates of recommendation written by pastors for emigrating families. They are often cataloged under each of several surnames on genealogical charts found with the papers—but not always.

The Draper Manuscripts

Special mention must be made of the Society's most famous manuscript collection, the Draper Manuscripts, the research collections of Lyman Copeland Draper (1815–1891). Although he was born and raised in upstate New York, Draper made it his life's work to rescue from oblivion the history of the "heroes of the Revolution" in the South. With the support of Peter Remsen, his cousin's husband, Draper was able to pursue a variety of occupations that allowed him considerable time to gather reminiscences, documents, and information for what was intended to be a series of volumes on the settlement and history of the Trans-Allegheny West. Draper's research involved much field work and he took several research trips in the 1840's gathering materials for his proposed volumes. After the death of Peter Remsen, Draper's need for regular employment led him to become the corresponding secretary of the recently organized State Historical Society of Wisconsin. While he had somewhat less time to devote to his own historical researches, Draper's correspondence and collecting continued to his death. His manuscript collection was bequeathed to the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. Further biographical information on Draper may be obtained from Wil-

liam B. Hesseltine's exellent biography, *Pioneer's Mission: The Story of Lyman Copeland Draper* (Madison, 1954).

Draper's manuscripts, when they came to the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, were like the working files of many scholars: a mass of partially sorted papers. They were organized by Society staff into a collection of 491 volumes divided into fifty series of varying lengths, arranged by geographic area, subject, and individual. The collection as a whole covers primarily the period between the French and Indian War and the war of 1812 (c. 1755–1815). The geographic concentration is on what Draper and his contemporaries called the "Trans-Allegheny West," which included the western Carolinas and Virginia, some portions of Georgia and Alabama, the entire Ohio River valley, and parts of the Mississippi River valley.

Contrary to popular belief, only a small part of the collections consists of original documents of the Revolutionary period. Instead, the bulk of the files are Draper's research notes and correspondence. The collection as a whole is extremely varied and includes correspondence, interview notes, extracts from newspapers and other published sources, muster rolls, transcripts of official documents, and much more. The collection's sheer depth and richness of detail must be experienced to be believed.

In its efforts to make this large and often unwieldy collection available to an ever-increasing research public, the Society has produced a microfilm edition of the entire collection, a comprehensive guide, a series of calendars for several of the major series, and several volumes of published documents from the collection. However, the sheer scope of Draper's manuscripts ensures that there is still much valuable information, both historical and genealogical, to reward the diligent and imaginative researcher.

The entire Draper collection was microfilmed in 1949 and refilmed in the 1970's. More than eighty libraries across the country have complete sets of the microfilm, and many will send individual reels on interlibrary loan. Many other libraries have portions of the microfilm. The microfilm is available for sale from Chadwyck-Healy Inc., 623 Martense Avenue, Teaneck, NJ 07666-1835 phone (201) 692-1801. They also have available on microfiche all the calendars and documentaries listed below.

Guide

Harper, Josephine L. *Guide to the Draper Manuscripts*. (Madison, 1983). Available for $30 plus postage and handling from Publication Orders, Dept. LCD, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 816 State Street, Madison, WI 53706-1488.

Calendars

Those items starred (*) are available only in microfiche from Chadwyck-Healy. The others are also available in hard copy from McDowell Publications, Route 4, Box 314, Utica, KY 42376-9119.

Calendar of the George Rogers Clark Papers (1979).
Calendar of the Frontier Wars Papers (1977).*
Calendar of the Kentucky Papers (1925).
Calendar of the Tennessee and King's Mountain Papers (1929).
Calendar of the Preston and Virginia Papers (1915).
Calendar of the David Shepard Papers (1979).*
Calendar of the South Carolina Papers (1979).*
Calendar of South Carolina in the Revolution Miscellanies (1979).*
Calendar of the Thomas Sumter Papers (1979).*

Documentaries

All were originally published by the State Historical Society of Wisconsin and are now available on microfiche by Chadwyck-Healy.

By Reuben Gold Thwaites and Louise Phelps Kellogg:

Documentary History of Dunmore's War, 1774 (1905).

The Revolution on the Upper Ohio, 1775–1777 (1908). Reprint available from Associated Faculty Press, 90 South Bayles Avenue, Port Washington, NY 11050-3793.

Frontier Defense on the Upper Ohio, 1777–1778 (1912).

By Louise Phelps Kellogg:
Frontier Advance on the Upper Ohio, 1778–1779 (1916).
Frontier Retreat on the Upper Ohio, 1779–1781 (1917).

Church and Cemetery Records

The Archives Division has a large collection of church and cemetery records which are especially useful for genealogical research. Church records are composed mainly of three different types. The first includes the complete records of churches which the Society has collected for many years. These typically include a broad range of materials such as records of membership, births, marriages and deaths, financial records, sermons, and information related to church organizations and governing bodies. Collections of this sort are sometimes original records which have been donated by individual churches, and sometimes microform copies which have been produced or purchased by the Society. The second category of church records is those which have been obtained through the Genealogical Society of Utah project described later in this

chapter. These records are much more narrow in scope, and commonly include little more than sacramental records, along with other information which may have been recorded in volumes that were filmed. The third includes records of church associations, synods, dioceses, or conferences. The Society has records from Congregational (UCC), Methodist, Lutheran, Baptist, and Episcopal denominations. These collections generally contain little specific genealogical information, although most have files related to individual churches and should not be overlooked if other church records are not available. Local church records and those of regional associations have been distributed throughout the ARC network, so researchers should contact the appropriate Area Research Center for specific information. Records of statewide associations are housed in Madison.

Cemetery records are also of three general types. The first consists of original cemetery records which have been donated or loaned for microfilming. Although individual collections vary, most tend to have burial records, association minutes, records of lots purchased, and other financial and administrative information. The second type includes cemetery inventories or indexes which have been completed by individuals or genealogical organizations. Here too the content varies, but almost all of the indexes contain at least the name of the individual buried and any dates which might have been inscribed on the tombstone. The Genealogical Society of Utah has microfilmed both types of records, although original records were, like church records, more carefully selected and include only records of burials. (As with church records, cemetery records and indexes have been distributed to appropriate ARCs.) The third type of record includes the collection of the Wisconsin State Old Cemetery Society, which is housed in Madison. At present this body of documentation is not large, including only thirteen Wisconsin counties; however, the collection is being continually updated as the society adds to its collection.

As with the state archives collections, the above list is not complete and represents only a fraction of the manuscript resources which may be useful to genealogists. Researchers may consult business records and find names of past employees along with valuable personal information. Likewise, the records of community organizations often contain membership lists which may help to locate an elusive family member; state or regional professional society collections often include extensive information about members.

The GSU Microfilming Program

For several years the State Historical Society has cooperated with the Genealogical Society of Utah (GSU) to microfilm a large number of records across the state that have exceptional genealogical value. As a result, the Archives Division has acquired an extensive collection of microform records that are specifically intended to assist people who are researching their family histories. The GSU has microfilmed several different types of records. The list below is representative of those which were included during the project. The dates in parentheses indicate generally the most recent records that were filmed.

Probate Records	(1910)
Military Records	(1900)
Vital Statistics	(1910)
Census Records	(1900)
Naturalization Records	(1930)
Land Records	(1900)
Church Sacramental Records	(1920)
Cemetery Records	(1920)

The cut-off dates are subject to considerable variation; some of the collections include information as recent as the 1960s or 1970s. The Genealogical Society of Utah also microfilmed cemetery indexes, a few collections of undertaker's records, and several special indexes which included birth, marriage, and death notices from local newspapers, justice of the peace records, and other resources.

In order to make these materials more readily available locally, the Society has placed microfilmed church, cemetery, and public records with appropriate ARCs throughout the state. Guidelines concerning dates and types of records selected for microfilming have changed several times during the course of the project, as has the amount of concentration in different portions of the state. Because of this, researchers are advised to contact the appropriate ARC or the State Historical Society concerning the availability of specific records. (See Appendix C.)

Almost all records whose use has not been restricted by donors may be copied by patrons, although it is the responsibility of each researcher to make the necessary provisions concerning copyright and literary rights restrictions on any and all copies made. Some restrictions on Xeroxing or photocopying apply to large or fragile documents and bound volumes. Restrictions are posted in the reading room, and staff archivists will answer specific questions about collections which may not be copied.

Finding aids for archives and manuscript collections have been produced for the Madison holdings and for most of the ARCs. The following is a partial list of guides which may be of particular interest to genealogists.

Guide to the Manuscripts of the Wisconsin Historical Society (Madison, published in 1944 with supplements in 1957 and 1966).

Wisconsin State Archives State Records Guide (Madison, 1984)

Wisconsin's Civil War Archives (Madison, 1966).

Guide to the Wisconsin Jewish Archives (Madison, 1973).

Belgian American Research Materials (Green Bay, 1984).

Guides to Area Research Centers have been published as follows: Eau Claire (1977), Green Bay (1982), La Crosse (1986), Milwaukee (1973), Parkside (1982), Platteville (1978) River Falls (1975), Stevens Point (1978), Stout (1978).

Genealogists may write to the Society, in care of the reference archivist, for information from our records, or information concerning guides, policies, and procedures for obtaining collections through the Area Research Center network, or other matters associated with specific research questions. The more individual inquires can be narrowed, the better our chances will be able to provide the needed information. Whenever possible, supply names of places of individuals or places, dates, and other particulars that might help in the search for the elusive nugget of information that we hope will be found somewhere.

THE MAP COLLECTION

MICHAEL J. FOX

Revised by Michael Edmonds

AMONG the first things one thinks of when considering the relationship of maps to genealogical research are the many county maps and atlases which show land ownership. Plat books and plat maps, as they are commonly called, are useful tools in genealogical research. Unfortunately, they have often overshadowed other cartographic records which can be equally helpful in resolving more than one sticky genealogical problem. We will suggest some of those types of maps and the uses to which they can be put in genealogical research. But, having begun by mentioning plat books and plat maps: let us return to these useful friends of the genealogist.

The first county land ownership maps in the United States appeared as plat maps, large single-sheet maps covering an entire county, often meant to be hung on the wall. While the first plat map appeared in 1808, it was not until the decade of the 1850's that such maps caught on. These large cadastral maps were often highly ornamented and gaudily hand-colored, as decorative as they were informative. Hanging on the parlor or office wall, they were the nineteenth-century equivalent of the art books that decorate coffee tables today. In addition to showing the names of land owners, roads, prominent buildings, and individual residences, the borders often were filled with vignettes of wealthy personages, public buildings, town plats, and city business directories. In 1864, the first plat book appeared. In this format, a series of smaller land-ownership maps were bound together in a multi-paged atlas which was easier to produce and to use. The plat book quickly replaced the single-sheet plat map as the most popular vehicle for depicting land ownership, township by township, within each county.

Both county plat books and plat maps were sold by traveling salesmen who first toured the county taking subscriptions and gathering information for the plat book or plat map to be published. Endorsement by the local newspaper and county officials was sought as a means of encouraging sales. (It is, therefore, more than coincidental that portraits of county officials were often prominently displayed in the front pages of plat books.) Land ownership was verified from records in the county courthouse or the title and abstract office and plotted on maps drawn from existing sources, though sometimes augmented by rough field in-

spection. Once sufficient subscriptions were raised, the volume was published, usually in regional centers such as Minneapolis, Chicago, or Rockford, Illinois. Some, however, were more local affairs, plain and sometimes crudely hand-lettered.

As a few big firms came to dominate the market, turning out one county plat book after another, the maps took on a particular and predictable format. Many of the features of the plat map were incorporated. Of course, the central element was the land ownership maps, usually one township to a page, showing land owners' names and property lines. These are useful for genealogists searching for the location of an ancestral farm. City plats continued to be included as well. The big change involved two features which came into their own with plat books. The first was the encyclopedia article. Many plat books became miniature histories, with statistical information and biographical sketches as well as maps of other states and foreign countries. More interesting were the patrons' directories, containing portraits and sketches, which were designed to increase the publisher's profit. Publishers augmented their income by including lithographed views of homes, farms, and businesses. Material prosperity was a source of great pride for the farmer, the householder, or the businessman—and a form of advertising for the latter as well. For a fee of thirty-five to sixty dollars—a substantial sum in the nineteenth century—you could have a drawing of your home, farm, or business included in the plat book. In the latter years of the nineteenth century, photographs replaced the wood engravings or lithographed sketches. The artist, of course, flattered his subscriber to make more subscription sales. Consequently, the scenes in these plat books are idealized: the houses and yards are neat, the fences are all straight, and everywhere there is prosperity and activity. Farmyards are full of animals; horses are high-stepping. It is a fortunate genealogist indeed who has been able to find a family home or farm depicted in one of these plat books.

Plat books continue to be published today. In the Midwest, two firms in Rockford, Illinois—the Rockford Map Publishing Company and Duerst Studios—and the Midland Atlas Company of Midland, South Dakota, are particularly prominent. Their plat books are professionally published for use by real estate companies, title companies, and insurance agents, and they continue to be useful, of course, for genealogists. Though they certainly lack the beauty of their nineteenth-century predecessors, contemporary plat books display the same information. What they lack in graphic design, they make up for in regularity. Whereas nineteenth-century plat books were published at widely varying inter-

vals, companies like Rockford Map Publishing issue a plat book for each county every two to three years.

Genealogists may often find older plat books in their nearby public library or historical society's local history collection. Microfilm copies of plat books of Wisconsin counties produced between approximately 1870 and 1900 can be borrowed on interlibrary loan through the Society. A list of these plat books is available at no charge from the Special Collections Librarian, as is an illustrated brochure on the map collection. Earlier plat maps, covering the 1850's and 1860's, are available only in the original but can be photocopied on request. The Society also has county atlases and plat maps for adjacent states and selected plat books for eastern states.

Regional history centers, state libraries, and state historical societies often have cartographic collections whose holdings can be borrowed on interlibrary loan or reproduced for a reasonable fee. The Geography and Map Division of the Library of Congress has extensive holdings in this area. The availability of plat books has been greatly enhanced by the reproduction of many older works in recent years in both printed and microform editions. The Arthur Robinson Map Library in Science Hall on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus (near the State Historical Society) houses the largest collection of aerial photographs of Wisconsin's landscape and a set of large-scale topographic maps of the entire United States.

How can you discover if a plat book was made for the time and place you are researching? Unfortunately there is no single master list. For the north central states, a comprehensive *Checklist of Printed Maps of the Middle West to 1900* (Boston, 1980–1984), published in fourteen volumes, includes all known pre-twentieth-century plat maps and books for Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, the Dakotas, Nebraska, Kansas, and Missouri. The index volume to this work lists nearly 3,000 plat maps by state and county under the heading "Land Ownership." Later maps, and those for other parts of the country, are recorded in published map library catalogs such as the eight-volume *List of Geographical Atlases in the Library of Congress* (Washington, 1909-1974), The ten-volume *Dictionary Catalog of the Map Division* of the New York Public Library (Boston, 1971), and the *Index to Printed Maps* in the Bancroft Library of the University of California (Boston, 1964). A very convenient, though selective, list is Richard Stephenson's *Land Ownership Maps: A Checklist . . . of Maps in the Library of Congress* (Washington, 1967); this also contains a delightful history of plat maps, and instructions on how to order copies from the Library. For Wisconsin

counties, Michael Fox's *Maps & Atlases Showing Land Ownership in Wisconsin* (Madison, 1978) is a virtually complete list of materials available at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

To understand the use of plat books and land transfer records, all of which are important sources of information for genealogists, it is necessary to back up a step, to go back to the original land surveys of Wisconsin. Originally, all of North America, including Wisconsin, belonged to the Native Americans. Then, through one means or another, Europeans (and later Americans) obtained title to the land. At first this land was all held by the federal government as part of the Northwest Territory, and finally as the State of Wisconsin. But before the federal government could sell the land to the settlers who were moving in, it had to be surveyed. It was necessary to know what was being sold and to establish boundaries. From 1832 to 1865, General Land Office crews surveyed the state, dividing it into a grid of 1,554 townships. These survey townships, each six miles square and consisting of thirty-six sections one mile square, became the basic unit of our land system. Each township was subdivided into four quarter-sections of 160 acres. These were further divided into quarter-quarter sections of forty acres, a frequent unit of farm size and the origin of that common term, "the forty."

Each survey township is numbered in a grid system, based on its relationship to two lines. In Wisconsin, all townships are described as a certain number of towns north of the base line, the Wisconsin-Illinois border, and east or west of the imaginary north-south line, the Fourth Principal Meridian. For example, the capital of Wisconsin lies in Town 7 North, Range 9 East. This grid system has had a profound impact on the appearance of our landscape, affecting the shape and patterns of farms, roads, and urban development.

In many parts of Wisconsin, survey townships correspond to civil townships, which are units of government. Hence, the Town of Berry in Dane County, a local government, is identical to Town 8 North, Range 7 East. But in some parts of the state, especially in the north, civil townships are portions or multiples of congressional townships.

These surveys and the maps prepared from them may not seem particularly germane to most genealogists, but they are important for three reasons. The first we have already seen. The survey grid and its numbering system is the basis for the legal description of most land outside cities and towns through most of the country west of the Ohio River. The original survey plats give us an idea of how the landscape looked when the first settlers came, showing Indian trails and camps, vegetation, and pre-survey settlement. These maps were probably the first thing that

many settlers saw of Wisconsin. When people came to the local sales office of the General Land Office in Milwaukee, Mineral Point, Muscoda or elsewhere, frequently they had not already seen the land. Settlers made their purchase and it was recorded in the local office sales books of the General Land Office. This agency of the Department of the Interior was charged with both the surveying and the selling of federal properties. Copies of these records, located in the State Historical Society's Archives Division (Series 1673), are arranged by legal description, not by names. They show the portion of a section, the section number, the town and range (this is why it is important to know town and range numbers), the number of acres, price per acre, the amount paid, the name of the purchaser, and the date of the sale. If the purchaser kept the land, and settled it, a patent was issued and sometimes, though not always, the patenting information also was entered; that is, the name, the date, and the volume number of the patent.

Closely related to the county plat books and plat maps is a series of state atlases that were published in Wisconsin in 1876, 1878, and 1881. These state atlases contain much the same sort of information as the county plat books. They are similarly encyclopedic in nature, containing world maps, maps of other states, histories (both of the state and counties), and biographical sketches. But, most important, they include a series of county maps, which are helpful to genealogists. On the maps are shown post offices, many of which no longer exist, as settlements. They show schools, possibly the rural one-room school mentioned in a family diary for which the genealogist is looking. They include churches; churches frequently have cemeteries. (Rural churches and rural cemeteries fall into decay and disappear and are often very difficult for the genealogist to find.) These atlases are one of the best sources of contemporary information about such locations. They also show road systems. Many genealogical questions have to do with how the people got to where they settled—what kind of road system existed, where did they come from, did they come overland from Milwaukee?

Research in urban areas presents a different set of problems for the genealogist, and different maps exist to solve thsm. Simple city maps showing street names and ward boundaries are a good place to begin. Over time, street names change. A comparison of contemporary and older maps will often reveal a hard-to-find street location. City ward boundaries change over the years as well. Such changes are often frequent and dramatic during periods of rapid city growth. As the basic unit of city government, the ward is the organizing unit for many govern-

mental records such as early census data. Older city maps can often identify the ward in which an area was located at a particular time.

City plat maps are of use for the genealogist, too. Unfortunately for the researcher, and unlike their country cousins, such maps seldom show the names of land owners. City land ownership is too complicated and fast changing to make the depiction of such information commercially profitable. City plat maps are originally created when a land owner subdivides, of plats, property into smaller parcels for resale as city lots. Typically, a very carefully drawn map—called a plat or cadastre—which documents this subdividing must be filled with appropriate authorities. In Wisconsin, this includes the county register of deeds office. Such maps show government survey monuments, streets, and existing buildings and watercourses.

Plats are the bridges which span the gap between street addresses and legal descriptions of city property. Home owners will recall that, while they may describe their property as 327 Elm Street, its legal description most likely is something like "Lot 12, Block 7, Sunnyside Addition." Genealogists searching tax rolls or mortgage and deed records, which are arranged by legal descriptions and not by street numbers or owner's names, will be frustrated in their searches without plat maps. Plats are the key which will translate Grandfather's street address into a legal description of his property. Once this is accomplished, various land records can be searched easily. Conversely, with the help of a plat, the information on an old family deed can be turned into a street address to find an ancestral home.

The original copies of city plats are on file, of course, with the appropriate county office, and usually they can be viewed there. In some cities, copies of the official plats have been commercially reprinted in volumes for use by city zoning and planning agencies, tax assessors, and police and fire departments. Commercial map firms are often hired to prepare new tax maps, based on a comparison of aerial photography and older plats, which show lot or tax parcel numbers. Copies of such maps may be available locally in the city hall or public library. Finally, city plat maps are available to the genealogist in a simple but adequate form in numerous city atlases or in the city map section of earlier county plat books of the nineteenth century. Plat books published at present for Dane, Fond du Lac, Milwaukee, Walworth, and Waukesha counties contain current city plats and are available at the Society.

Bird's-eye views or aerial panoramas provide additional information about cities. Published in much the same way as the county plat books, these maps were promoted by traveling salesmen who would take sub-

scriptions, seek the endorsement of the local newspaper and city officials, and hire an artist to sketch the city view by walking up and down the streets. About 200 bird's-eye views for Wisconsin cities, spanning the period from 1867 to the end of the First World War, were published. The SHSW has copies of virtually all of these. Most are listed in Elizabeth Maule's *Bird's Eye Views of Wisconsin Communities* (Madison, 1977). The authoritative source for information on bird's-eye views is John W. Reps' *Views and View Makers of Urban America* (Columbia, 1984) which tells the history of this genre and its makers, and catalogs 4,500 views held by libraries and museums around the country. Buildings were drawn with great care and are generally faithful (if stylized) representations of the way the homes looked. After all, the artist was dependent upon subscription sales to make his living, and if he didn't draw your house right, you weren't likely to buy a copy of his bird's-eye view. They are a useful tool for the genealogist or the local historian who wishes to recreate the appearance of a structure, particularly one which no longer exists.

Another source of information about urban buildings is our collection of the Sanborn fire-insurance maps, published between 1879 and the 1960's. These are large-scale maps showing chiefly commercial and industrial areas in the early days. Further into the twentieth century, they also cover residential districts. The maps are color-coded to show types of construction: yellow buildings are frame, pink are brick, and blue are stone or masonry. They also show the proximity of fire-fighting equipment, the type of heating, and the location of windows. For commercial and industrial establishments, they show if there is a night watchman; and for earlier years, they also show if electricity is included.

Of special significance to the genealogist is the inclusion of house numbers, a feature which appears on few maps today and on almost no earlier ones. Since street numbering patterns, like street names, have often changed, the Sanborn fire-insurance maps are a useful way of corroborating the exact location of 312 Elm Street in 1895.

The Sanborn Company mapped more then 12,000 U.S. cities and towns, some 700,000 separate sheets. *Fire Insurance Maps in the Library of Congress* (Washington, 1981) lists all of these; this massive collection is currently being microfilmed, and will soon be distributed by Chadwyck-Healey Inc. A convenient account of what is available outside the Library of Congress is the two-volume *Union List of Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps* (Santa Cruz, 1977), which lists the 325 Wisconsin communities for which Sanborn maps are available at the Society. For a list of

Canadian Sanborns, consult Robert Hayward's *Fire Insurance Maps in the National Map Collection* (Ottawa, 1977).

Topographical maps have been considered an important source of information for outdoor recreation: for camping, hunting, canoeing, and backpacking. But they are also a significant aid to the genealogist. The United States Geological Survey began topographical mapping in 1882. The first map of Wisconsin was the Stoughton quadrangle, which appeared in 1889. Others have followed regularly, for new or revised editions are continually being published in this ongoing project. The State Historical Society has a complete collection of all U.S.G.S. topographical maps of Wisconsin. Useful features of topographical maps for genealogists include the depiction of rural church and cemetery locations. They are also an important source for identifying local, rural place names, both geographical and cultural. Useful, too, is their inclusion of the federal land survey grid system which we considered earlier. It is often difficult to relate older maps to contemporary ones because of cultural impact on the landscape, the building of new roads, damming of rivers, and the growth of cities. By including the town, range and section numbers of the federal survey grid, topographical maps provide a convenient reference point when reading older maps, especially plat books.

Ancillary to maps, and of equal importance to genealogists, are the many gazetteers and place-name reference works now available. They can solve many puzzles, serving as the link between documents and maps. Researchers too often spend hours carefully poring over maps of the United States or foreign countries in search of the name of a village or town which may long since have disappeared or been changed beyond recognition. This is wasted effort. The exact location of most places can be more quickly plotted by consulting a gazetteer before turning to a map. Larger cities worldwide can be found in several general works: the *Columbia Lippincott Gazetteer of the World* (New York, 1952), in *The Times Index-Gazetteer of the World* (Boston, 1967), or *Webster's New Geographical Dictionary* (Springfield, 1964). At least one of these should be available in any library.

For current U.S. names, the best general source is the gazetteer sections of the Rand McNally *Commercial Atlas and Marketing Guide* (Chicago, 1978). Named townships can be identified in the *Township Atlas of the United States* (McLean, 1977). For local place-names and for smaller communities, one can turn to numerous detailed state and regional works. Official state atlases often include comprehensive indexes to local place names. The *Atlas of Wisconsin* (Madison, 1974), for example, includes a 14,000-entry index based on place names appearing on the U.S.

Geological Survey topographical maps. Numerous place name histories and etymologies such as Frederic G. Cassidy's *Dane County Place Names* (Madison, 1968), or more recent works such as *Indiana Place Names* (Bloomington, 1975) or *Georgia Place Names* (Macon, 1975) are also useful. Richard Sealock's definitive, though now dated, *Bibliography of Placename Literature: United States and Canada* (Chicago, 1967) lists 3,599 such sources.

Similar works are available for foreign countries as well. The best bibliography of foreign gazetteers is in the "CL" section of that most popular reference work, *Guide to Reference Books* (Chicago, 1976), compiled by Eugene Sheehy. This list is by no means definitive, however. Sheehy lists for Germany only the standard *Meyers Orts-und Verkehrs-Lexicon des Deutschen Reiche* (Leipzig, 1912-1913), while a search of the campus libraries of the University of Wisconsin uncovered twenty-four gazetteers and place name works covering both present and historic Germany (see Appendix A). Researchers should check the subject portions of a library's card catalog under the subjects "Names, Geographical," and under the subdivision "Gazetteers" following the names of countries to ensure covering all available titles. Unfortunately, foreign gazetteers are specialized tools and are likely to be found only in the largest public or research libraries. The collections of such institutions are frequently available, however, through the interlibrary loan channels of your nearest public library.

To a greater degree than might be supposed, then, cartographic records in abundance can be of aid to the genealogist. Rural and urban plat maps and plat books, state atlases, city street maps, bird's-eye views, fire-insurance maps, gazetteers, and government documents relating to land transactions—each performs a particular function in research, and collectively they can make the construction of a genealogy both easier and more interesting.

GENEALOGY IN WISCONSIN HISTORY:

An 1855 Kidnapping Solved and a Rare Photograph Found

JOHN O. HOLZHUETER

BACK IN 1855, the U.S. government hired the famous Pinkerton Detective Agency to find a kidnapped Menominee Indian boy from Wisconsin. The Pinkertons failed, the boy remained lost, the mystery lived on—far longer than any of the principal figures in the drama could have lived themselves. Generations of Wisconsinites were regaled with the story of the lost child: Was little Caspar Partridge lost forever in the woods, or was he stolen by the Indians? Was it really Caspar who was found among the Menominee and who was restored to his parents? Or did the Partridges claim a half-breed boy as their own, kidnap him, and vanish?

In the fall of 1974, by using the tools every genealogist employs and by taking advantage of a modern telephone system, I succeeded where the Pinkertons had failed. Without setting foot outside the Historical Society Library and my office in Madison, I solved the riddle of Caspar Partridge.

It was not the first time I traced someone in the cause of history, nor was it the last. Later I located the descendants of a black Milwaukeean—the state's first Negro civil rights figure—and I was rewarded by finding the earliest photograph the Historical Society now has of a black Wisconsinite. In both cases the sources were the same: personal contact, library collections, and courthouse records. The methods were genealogical, but the goals were not: a genealogist starts with a living person and traces his ancestors; I started with a historic figure and traced his descendants.

Detective work on the Partridge case began with William C. Haygood, former editor of the *Wisconsin Magazine of History*, who wanted to take a fresh look at the story and its mountain of related documents, especially some newly available federal records. He thought they might give some answers, but they did not. Nor did public appeals for information. The Partridges left Wisconsin without a trace. Haygood's conclusions were the same as those reached by other scholars: Caspar had died in the woods; the Partridges found an Indian boy who resembled him, kidnapped the Indian boy, and fled. But why? Where did they go? What became of the boy?

That is where I came in. I suggested that descendants of the Partridges might know the answers. Bill was able to tell me that the family had been reported in Illinois, Ohio, Indiana, and Nebraska. A published genealogy led to Warren, Ohio, but the Partridges there knew nothing about Caspar or his parents. I worked westward. I checked through the Historical Society's large collection of county histories, and when I hit Steuben County, Indiana, I hit home. (If this plan had not worked, I would have checked the Soundex for the 1880 federal census.) At about the same time, Malcolm Rosholt, a Wisconsin author, published a novel about the Partridge case. He too, had traced the family to Steuben County, but he had not been able to locate descendants.

Bill and I immediately examined the federal census records for 1860, 1870, and 1880, plus all the materials we could readily find about Steuben County. And we got in touch by phone and letter with many people: the compiler of the county's cemetery records; local newspaper reporters; local historians; and county officials for probate and death records. We learned through the census that Caspar had been renamed Joseph, and a county history disclosed that he was a Civil War veteran. We acquired a copy of his service and pension records from the National Archives, and it proved to be a bonanza. Joseph's pension file detailed a remarkable story of bigamy and a quandary about the legal recipient of his pension, and it gave the name and some addresses of numerous relatives and friends who had been interviewed by the investigator on the case. I tried by telephone to find them or their descendants in the communities in which they had lived in 1918, and after two or three days and perhaps ten calls I managed to find a nephew of the widow who ultimately won the pension.

Without mentioning the kidnapping or the Indian question, I asked him to describe Joe Partridge. "Well," he said without hesitation, "he was an Indian." Without trying to sound excited, I asked how he knew. "He told me so," the nephew said, "and so did his sons."

I was in such high glee that I forgot to ask some questions which I should have asked, and I had to call back. But the nephew readily provided the names of other persons, and I soon learned that in 1974 Joseph Partridge, who had been born in the 1840's, still had a sister-in-law living in Florida. She was ninety, had a date to go square dancing the day I spoke to her, and had known Joe very well. He had died during a visit to her home at Camp Douglas, Wisconsin, in 1916, and he was "part Indian." Her story was confirmed by descendants and heirs of his children and by their cousins on their mother's side of the family.

A picture of a complex man began to emerge: Joseph Partridge drank too much, he loved children, he was a womanizer, he excelled in whittling and woodcraft, he was kind, he was perpetually unemployed, he was a scrapper when provoked or drunk, and he knew he was an Indian.

That is how he was remembered by his wife's family and his immediate descendants. But what about his own nieces and nephews in the Partridge line? What did they know about Joe? The pension record helped locate one sister's family in Colorado, but its members barely knew his name. Through a series of misfortunes and circumstances, nearly all the living descendants in that branch of the family were sightless, and they had disposed of the family photograph albums.

The trail of the second sister seemed to stop in Nebraska, where she had been living with her family in 1880. But then the obituary of the senior Mrs. Partridge arrived from Steuben County, supplied by an overworked newspaper employee. It disclosed that the "lost" daughter had lived for years in Tacoma, Washington. A search of city directories and a telephone call to the probate office for Tacoma provided the name of a great-niece who operated the family's flower business. She graciously gave the name of Joseph Partridge's last surviving Partridge nephew—an El Paso, Texas, octogenarian.

My conversation with him was a long one—and very loud. The old gentleman was quite deaf, and my bellowing disturbed colleagues who work two corridors from my office. But the effort was worth it. He had all the answers, since he had made the case a personal project for many years. When he was a small boy, he had lived for a year or so with Mrs. Partridge, and later he pieced together his uncle's story, using his own recollections, records, and interviews. His grandmother, he had come to believe, refused to accept the idea that her son had died in the woods. She desperately wanted him to be alive, and she seized upon Joe as her own. Her husband, however, was not persuaded, and he and the two girls frequently discussed the matter outside the hearing of Joseph and his mother. They knew the truth, but they could not quite bring themselves to accept it, and so they carried their doubts to their graves.

Joe, however, had no doubts. His own descendants, his surviving sister-in-law, and the various members of her family agreed on one point: Joseph Partridge was an Indian boy.

Even his final resting place turned out to be shrouded in mystery. Although he had been visiting his sister-in-law at the time of his death, he actually expired at the home of a neighbor in Camp Douglas. But we could find no marker for him in the local cemetery—or so it seemed. For the third time in the case, an aged person supplied the answer. He was

the Camp Douglas neighbor, now in his late eighties, and he related that the family had not marked Joe's grave. Years later, persons interested in honoring Civil War veterans approached him and asked him to point out the burial spot, which he did. But he had forgotten Joe's name, and when he was given a list of possibilities, he selected the wrong one. Thus the kidnapped Indian boy, who became Joseph Partridge, lies buried in Camp Douglas as Joseph F. Parker.

The story of the black civil rights leader Ezekiel Gillespie is less dramatic, and the search for his family was less complex.

Ezekiel Gillespie has come down through the state's history as the man who in 1865 initiated a court suit which won the vote for Wisconsin's blacks. The suit was not his idea; white civil rights leaders deserve credit for that. But Ezekiel Gillespie was a willing instrument for progress, and he devoted himself wholeheartedly to the voting case and other reforms. Unfortunately, no suitable photograph of him was available as a visual symbol of his achievement.

Once again the first clues were supplied by a scholar. In this case it was Frederick I. Olson, then a dean of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and the author of a short article about Gillespie. Dean Olson had obtained from cemetery records the name and address of an Atlanta woman who had been responsible for her family's graves. But seventeen years before, he had received no answer to a letter sent there. In late 1976, I made a routine telephone information call which disclosed that someone with the same surname still lived at the same address. I telephoned, and was referred to an officer of the Atlanta Life Insurance Company. She told me that the family had founded the company, and she promised to do what she could about finding a picture of Ezekiel Gillespie. I waited two weeks, heard nothing, and decided on another approach. Since the family had been among the most prominent in Atlanta's black community, it was likely that Afro-American scholars could help me. Two or three calls put me in touch with Richard Long of Atlanta University. He told me that the family in question was unusually reticent, but that a close friend and neighbor of the son of the firm's founder probably would help me. The neighbor did. She had known Jessie Gillespie, the daughter of Ezekiel and the second wife of the life insurance executive. And the neighbor gave me the name and address of one of Jessie's great-nieces. A call to the niece produced the name of another, and she in turn provided another.

The last of the three owned the significant picture—a daguerreotype of Ezekiel Gillespie taken in the 1840's. It is a rare picture for several reasons. First, it is early. Second, many daguerreotypes of blacks have

survived, but very few of the subjects have been identified. Third, it is significant symbolically in Wisconsin's black history, for Gillespie's name has come to be associated with civil rights achievement in the nineteenth century. The great-granddaughter lent the Society the daguerreotype for copying. The two other descendants also permitted us to copy pictures of various family members, including Ezekiel Gillespie.

The family, however, was a complex one. Gillespie had been married twice, the second time to a widow with two daughters, and he had had children by both wives. While descendants of his stepchildren and children by his second wife had remained in touch, they had not maintained ties with the descendants of the five children of the first marriage. And I wanted to locate all of them in order to complete my search and make sure that I had found all the Gillespie material.

Again, a probate record proved invaluable. The Atlanta daughter was childless and had died without a will, so her administrators had to search out the names and addresses of all her nieces and nephews. They developed an extensive list, and from these names I easily found a Gillespie great-grandson who lives in St. Paul, Minnesota. He gave me the name and address of a cousin in Los Angeles, and she was able to provide more pictures, some useful biographical detail, and the name of Emma Gillespie, a Los Angeles granddaughter of Ezekiel. She, in turn, put me in touch with a great-granddaughter who owns some collateral family materials. But these three women had lost track of other cousins in Chicago and Detroit. I had one clue to them: a female cousin was known to have worked for a black-owned sausage factory in Chicago, but the Los Angeles and St. Paul cousins could not recall her married name or the name of the firm. A black acquaintance told me the name of the company (Parker House Sausage), and a phone call and a follow-up letter to its financial officer elicited the proper name and address.

The Chicago woman, a former entertainer, has put me in touch with numerous cousins, has provided a small collection of letters form the 1870's, and has donated some additional pictures.

Only one of Ezekiel's ten children or stepchildren has remained elusive. He is Charles, who had passed for many years into the white world and who returned to his family some time before his death. His sons, however, could not be traced when their Atlanta aunt's estate was distributed.

These two research excursions suggest several bits of advice. First, the memories of old people go back nearly a century, and they may remember conversations about events that occurred long before they were

born. Historians and genealogists alike should talk to informants and not rely wholly upon the written or published record.

Second, locate all descendants or relatives in all lines.

Third, the bits and pieces of a genealogical or historical puzzle do not fall into place neatly, in the right order. They are learned randomly, and one leads to another in no particularly graceful way.

Fourth, do not be timid about repeating visits or questions. Wait a decent interval if a letter goes unanswered, then try again. New bits of information may mean that another interview is needed, but as new questions occur, be sure to ask them good-naturedly and without embarrassment.

Fifth, use public records. Everyone leaves a trail of them as he or she proceeds through life, and they are deposited in the logical government offices. Military, probate, civil court, birth, marriage, pension, and death records are particularly useful.

Sixth, use library resources imaginatively and to their utmost.

Seventh, telephone conversations often are more fruitful than letters, which many people find difficult to write. Calls are less costly than travel, and they take far less time. Make sure to take notes during the conversation, then amplify them in writing immediately afterwards.

Finally, keep a sense of humor, do not expect to solve a research problem quickly, be persistent, and maintain the attitude that an answer is just around the corner. There is an adage among historians that you can learn something about anything if you only look hard enough.

You can even solve kidnappings.

APPENDIX A

German Place Name Sources
on the
University of Wisconsin – Madison Campus

General Background

Jensen, Larry O. *A genealogical handbook of German research.* Pleasant Grove, Utah, 1978. Basic guide for place name searches.

Genealogical Society of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. *Boundary changes of the former German empire and the effect upon genealogical research.* Salt Lake City [1971?]. Brief history with general maps.

Akadamie für Raumforschung und Landesplanung. *Verwaltungsgrenzen in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland seit Beginn des 19. Jahrhundert.* Hanover, 1977. Detailed history of boundary changes, 1820–1961, only for the area of present Federal Republic.

Hall, Charles M. *Atlantic bridge to Germany.* Logan, Utah, 1974–1976. v. 1 Baden-Württemberg; v. 2 Rheinland-Pfalz, Hesse; v. 3 Bavaria; v. 4 Saarland, Alsace-Lorraine, Switzerland. Maps, gazetteers, and histories of political boundaries. Best source for areas covered.

Gazetteers

Germany

Meyers Orts-und-Verkehrs Lexikon des Deutschen Reichs. Leipzig, 1935. Basic gazetteer for the German empire.

Germany. Reichspostministerium. *Ortsverzeichnis.* Berlin, 1941. Postal directory at the height of the Third Reich. Includes pre-1918 Germany, Poland, Austria, Bohemia, Moravia, Alsace-Lorraine, Eupen-Malmedy, and Luxemburg.

West Germany [Federal Republic of Germany (FRG)/ Bundesrepublik Deutschland (BRD).]

Muller, Friedrich. Mullers grosses Deutsches Ortsbuch. Wuppertahl, 1977. Modern postal directory.

U.S. Board on Geographic Names. *Germany-Federal Republic and West Berlin.* Washington, 1960. English-language gazetteer.

East Germany [German Democratic Republic (GDR)/ Deutsche Demokratische Republik (DDR).]

Adomeit, Heinz. *Ortslexikon der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik.* Berlin, 1974. Similar to Müller's *Ortsbuch* for West Germany.

Staatlichen Zentralverwaltung für Statistik. *Verzeichnis der Gemeinden und Orsteile der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik.* Berlin, 1968.
U.S. Board on Geographic Names. *Germany-Soviet Zone and East Berlin.* Washington, 1959. English-language gazetteer.

Austria

U.S. Board on Geographic Names. *Austria.* Washington, 1962.

Poland

Panstwowe Przedsiebiorstwo Wydawnictw Kartograficznych. *Skorowidz do Mapy Administracyjnej Polskiey Rzeczypospolitej Ludowej.* Warsaw, 1972.

Switzerland

Jacot, Arthur. *Schweizerisches Ortslexikon.* Lucern, 1969.

Detailed Maps

Prussia. Landesaufnehme. *Karte des Deutschen Reichs.* ca. 1861–1919. Scale 1:100,000. Series of 675 maps of the German empire.

Geographisches Institut, Weimar. *Topographishe-militrische charte von Deutschland.* Weimar. Series of 204 maps covering the German empire plus Austria, Bohemia, Moravia, and Slovenia.

Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. Militar-geographisches Institut, Vienna. *Special karten.* Vienna, 1875–1915. Scale 1:75,000. Series of 732 maps covering the Austro-Hungarian empire.

Panstwowe Przedsiebiorstwo Wydawnictw Kartograficznych. *Polska rzeczpospolita ludowa.* Warsaw, 1972. Scale 1:500,000. Modern map of Poland on four sheets.

Institute fr Angewandte Geodasie. *Pommern.* Berlin, 1956. Scale 1:300,000. Pomerania with German place-names.

General Maps

(For identifying regions and larger cities only)

Institute für Angewandte Geodsie. *Deutschland.* Frankfurt A.M., 1968. Scale 1:1,000,000.

Stieler, Adolf. *Stieler's Atlas of Modern Geography.* Gotha, 1908.

Rand, McNally. *Library atlas of the world.* Chicago, 1914.

Times Atlas of the World. Boston, 1967.

Stieler, Adolf. *Stieler's Atlas of Modern geography: Europe and Asia.* 1928.

APPENDIX B

AREA RESEARCH CENTERS

Area Research Center
Dexter Library
Northland College
1411 Ellis Avenue
Ashland, WI 54806
(715) 682-4531

Area Research Center
W.D. McIntyre Library
University of Wisconsin
Eau Claire, WI 54701
(715) 836-2739

Area Research Center
Library/Learning Center
University of Wisconsin
Green Bay, WI 54302
(414) 465-2539

Area Research Center
Parkside Library
University of Wisconsin
Kenosha, WI 53141
(414) 553-2411

Area Research Center
Eugene W. Murphy Library
University of Wisconsin
La Crosse, WI 54601
(608) 785-8511

Area Research Center
Robert L. Pierce Library
University of Wisconsin
Menomonie, WI 54751
(715) 232-2300

Area Research Center
Golda Meir Library
University of Wisconsin
2311 East Hartford Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53201
(414) 963-5402

Area Research Center
Forrest R. Polk Library
University of Wisconsin
Oshkosh, WI 54901
(414) 424-3347

Area Research Center
Elton E. Karrman Library
University of Wisconsin
Platteville, WI 53818
(608) 342-1688

Area Research Center
Chalmer Davee Library
University of Wisconsin
River Falls, WI 54022
(715) 425-3567

Area Research Center
Learning Resource Center
University of Wisconsin
Stevens Point, WI 54481
(715) 346-2586

Area Research Center
Jim Dan Hill Library
University of Wisconsin
Superior, WI 54880
(715) 394-8512

Area Research Center
Harold Anderson Library
University of Wisconsin
Whitewater, WI 53190
(414) 472-4671

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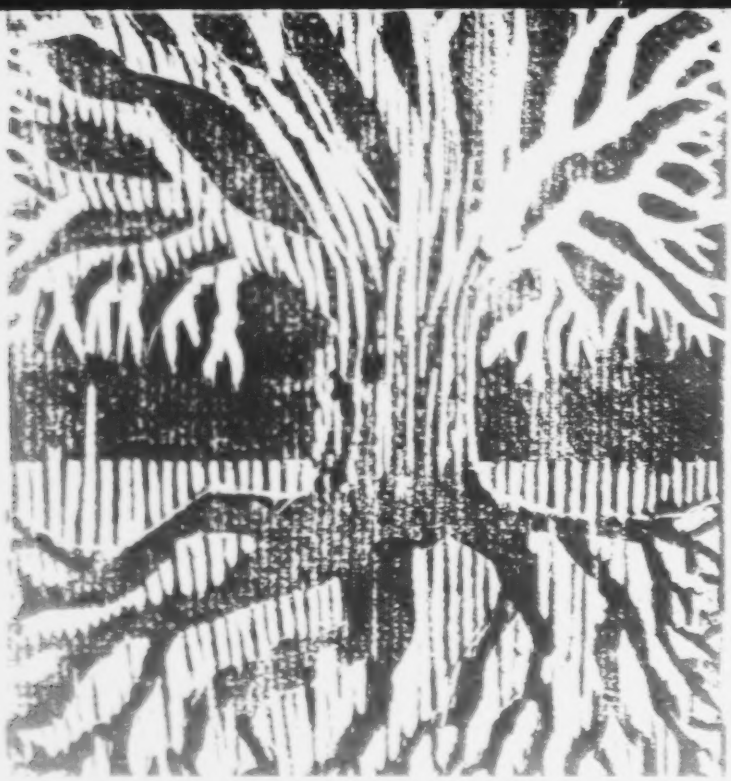
John O. Holzhueter, an associate editor of the *Wisconsin Magazine of History*, contributes a weekly discussion about Wisconsin's past to morning audiences of the state radio network. In addition, he checks for historical accuracy many of the Society's publications and provides research and bibliographical assistance to a wide variety of researchers.



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